

03050112-050

(Wambaw Creek)

General Description

Watershed 03050112-050 is located in Berkeley and Charleston Counties and consists primarily of *Wambaw Creek* and its tributaries. The watershed occupies 63,673 acres of the Lower Coastal Plain and Coastal Zone regions of South Carolina. The predominant soil types consist of an association of the Chipley-Yauhannah-Yemassee-Leon series. The erodibility of the soil (K) averages 0.12; the slope of the terrain averages 1%, with a range of 0-2%. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 80.7% forested land, 13.6% forested wetland, 4.3% scrub/shrub land, 1.3% nonforested wetland, and 0.1% barren land.

Wambaw Creek accepts drainage from Wambaw Swamp, Mechaw Creek, Mill Branch, and Cane Branch (Keepers Branch). Little Wambaw Swamp connects Wambaw Swamp and Mechaw Creek. Further downstream, Big Morgan Branch (Little Morgan Branch) enters Wambaw Creek and flows into the South Santee River watershed (03050112-060). Cedar Creek drains into Wambaw Creek at the base of the watershed and flows into the North Santee River watershed (03050112-060). There are ponds totaling 3.8 acres, 8.8 acres of estuarine areas, and a total of 61.2 stream miles in this watershed, all classified FW. An additional natural resource is the Francis Marion National Forest, which extends across the entire watershed. Located within the National Forest is the Wambaw Creek National Wilderness Area, the Wambaw Swamp National Wilderness Area, and the proposed Waterhorn Historic Area.

Water Quality

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
CSTL-112	W	FW	WAMBAW CREEK AT EXT. OF S-10-857

Wambaw Creek (CSTL-112) - Aquatic life uses are fully supported. This is a blackwater system, characterized by naturally low dissolved oxygen. Although dissolved oxygen excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in blackwater systems and were considered natural, not standards violations. Recreational uses are fully supported.

A fish consumption advisory has been issued by the Department for mercury and includes Wambaw Creek within this watershed (see advisory p.34).

Growth Potential

There is a low potential for growth projected for this watershed.